GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3534
ANSWERED ON:16.04.2008
PROTECTION OF TIGERS
Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has directed the State Governments to take adequate measures for tiger protection as reported in 'The Times of India' dated March 22, 2008;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) whether the National Tiger Conservation Authority has issued deadlines for tiger-bearing States and threatened to cut off funds if they don't deliver;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the response of the States thereon;

(e) whether the Union Government has also warned the States to block the funds for tiger reserves unless they sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Environment and Forests; and

(f) if so, the response of the States thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a), (b), (c) Yes Sir.Advisories have been issued to States for tiger protection.Based on the review and deliberations held in the All India meeting of Field Directors recently,timelines have been prescribed for submission of reserve-wise indicative Tiger Conservation Plan,apart from plan for relocation of villages from the core/critical tiger habitat identified within tiger reserves.

(d) to (f) So far, Tiger Conservation Plan has been received only from the Similipal Tiger Reserve of Orissa, and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is awaited.Both MOU as well as the Tiger Conservation Plan are awaited from all other Tiger Reserves.The tiger reserve States have been informed that central assistance under Project Tiger would be provided only on receipt of an indicative Tiger Conservation Plan and the prescribed MOU, duly signed by the competent authority of the State.